

## Cold Snap Due To Loosen Its Grip Today

Cold weather on the Eastern Shore not yet a cold wave, according to the Weather Bureau. It is due to relax today, although frost temperatures and weather fatalities continued to be reported from other parts of the country.

The local temperature dropped to 21 yesterday. The Weather Bureau said it may snow today and the skies will be cloudy but there will be a slight warming up and quite possibly the minimum of yesterday will not be touched. However, the bureau reported, Eastern Shoremen are not yet justified in calling the weather a cold wave. It is only a local recession of a real cold wave in the Middle West, it was explained.

To be termed a cold wave in January or December in this section it was said, the temperatures must drop more than 30 degrees in twenty-four hours, reaching a point where the mercury is 10 or lower. The only section in Maryland in the running for cold wave honors was Frostburg, where zero weather prevailed.

Twenty seven deaths from exposure were reported in the United States. At the airport in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, it was 51 degrees below zero.

In general, the high winds that swept through the East for the last two days were abating. Road workers in Western Maryland and Northwestern Pennsylvania were able to clear the roads of six foot drifts that blocked all traffic, and bus lines reported normal service.

### CHRISTIAN SERVICES

"God" will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all the Churches of Christ, Scientist, on Sunday, January 1st.

The Golden Text will be from Isa. 44:1—"Thus saith the Lord, the King of Israel, and his redeemer, the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."

Among the citations comprising the Lesson-Sermon will be the following from the Bible—Mark 1: 16, 17—"Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to be fishers of men."

The Lesson-Sermon also will include passages from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, among which is the following, pages 203—"If God were understood instead of being merely believed, this understanding would establish health."

Services: Sunday, 11 A. M. Sunday School 9:45 A. M., Wednesday evening testimonial meetings at 8 o'clock, 11 North Harrison Street, Easton, Md.

### FOR SALE

One wood or coal kitchen range; 1 Opello hot blast heater, 18 inch with zinc, camper, pipes; 1 American coaster wagon; 1 sewing machine; volumes 1 and 2 of Picturesque Palestine, Sinai and Egypt; 1 large steam whistle; 1 lot of used pipe fittings; 1 wooden vise; number 35 sprocket chain; used window shutters; 1 tee cream freezer, 6 quarts; 4 steel gears, 2 1.5 in bore, 6 inch diameter; 1 lot of rock maple flooring; 6 small shaft bearings; 4 wooden reels as used in flour mill.

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## Muskrat Trapping Season Gets Under Way Sunday

Being a muskrat won't be fun, come New Year's Day.

On January 1, the busy little fur bearing animals, whose elaborate apartment like houses cluster Eastern Shore marshes, become legal game for hundreds of trappers whose annual income from pelts has run as high as \$2,500,000 a year.

A "construction boom" in the State's extensive muskrat colony, centered in Dorchester county, led State Game Department officials this week to predict an excellent trapping season—provided the weather stays open and no general freeze sets in.

Watermen estimate the numbers of muskrats in the marshes by the number of conical-shaped houses visible. The muskrats have built extensively so far this season and construe. Department officials explained, "Prime pelts usually bring from \$1.50 to 2 each, and Maryland has long been noted for the superior quality of its black furs. Brown pelts bring lower prices."

Last year the weather remained warm and open throughout the season and production was held to slightly over 1000,000 pelts. If open weather is combined with a few freezes, forcing the muskrats to forage for food, trappers have more opportunity to capture them.

Muskrat houses are three or four storied affairs, with individual flats connected to a central lobby called the well or plunger, built by trappers. If danger threatens the home, its tenants dive into the well and swim to safety through shallow canals leading to deep water.

Recent Department of Agriculture tests showed the marsh rabbits could stay under water for as long as seventeen minutes before coming up to breathe.

Their principal food is sedge and cattails although they sometimes feed on fish, fresh water clams and occasionally turtles.

Hotels and restaurants frequently serve muskrat meat as

diamondback terrapin. E. Lee LeCompte, State Game Warden, said, since it is almost impossible to distinguish between the two meats when muskrat is properly prepared.

## Boyd Must Approve All Applications

Governor Harry W. Nice announced formally last week he would grant no paroles, pardons or sentence reductions during the closing days of his administration unless such actions were first approved by the State Parole Commissioner.

In a statement comparing paroles, pardons and reductions in sentences of his administration with those granted by former Governor Ritchie, Nice said he had received a great volume of applications.

In some instances, he said, the applications for parole or sentence reductions for life term convicts have provoked public debate and widespread agitation.

To all applications, I have given serious and careful consideration, the Governor's statement said. To have assumed any other attitude would, in my opinion, have been highly improper. It is my duty, as Governor, charged with the administration and exact justice between the people of this state and the petitioning prisoners.

Having done his, I have concluded that I must refuse those applications not approved by the Parole Commissioner. During the closing hours of my administration, I shall grant no reductions in sentences, paroles or pardons in any cases except those which have been recommended or may be recommended to me by the Parole Commissioner, in whose judgment both the public and myself have implicit confidence and whose investigations are always thorough.

The Governor added that publicity and agitation in connection with matters in which the people are interested frequently leave a definite reaction in the public mind—a reaction in some cases unfair and prejudiced and that I think, has been the case in connection with the present discussion.

By present discussion, friends of the Governor said, he meant the debate over sentence reduction applications filed by Claude Dobbs, Thomas Foran, H. C. Jones and Dale Lambert, all life term convicts.

Parole Commissioner J. Cookman Boyd has declined to recommend favorable action in any of the cases.

## School Census Figures Completed

Showing 5218 enrolled in public schools, the Census taken by the Board of Education in October.

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ber, listed 10,020 residents of the county, both white and colored who are under 21 years of age, according to recently completed statistics. The Census was taken during the later part of October by county teachers, as a part of a state wide census taken every two years.

A comparison with 1936 figures showed a slight increase in the total number of youths, there being 9,576 under 21 years two years ago. In 1936 there was a slightly higher public school enrollment, 5,416 as compared with 5,218 in 1938.

This year's figures showed that of the 3,655 white children attending public schools, 1,792 are boys and 1,863 are girls. A total of 1,323 colored students, 774 boys and 549 girls, are enrolled in public schools. The term public school includes not only the graded and high schools but State Teachers' Colleges and other schools conducted by the state.

One hundred and one white students, residents of the county, are enrolled in private schools, which include colleges and universities as opposed to 92 in 1936. Of this year's number, 50 are boys and 51 are girls. Seven colored students are enrolled in private schools.

The census also covers the number of persons under 21 years of age who are not attending schools. This group includes those beyond school age, and undeveloped pre-school children, and those who because of physical or mental handicaps are unable to attend. A total of 3,117 white residents make up this group, and of this number 1,128 are employed, (717 boys and 411 girls.)

In 1936 there were 2,909 not in school and of that number 1020 were employed, 631 boys and 389 girls. The figures thus show that there are approximately 100 more persons under 21 employed now than two years ago, although, of course, the total group is larger by about 200 persons.

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